

December 20, 2010

**CHANGE IN DISTRIBUTOR: SINEMET® TABLETS (CARBIDOPA-LEVODOPA) and SINEMET CR (CARBIDOPA-LEVODOPA) SUSTAINED-RELEASE TABLETS**

Dear Pharmacist:

Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. (BMS) and Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp., a subsidiary of Merck & Co., Inc. (Merck) would like to inform you that **effective January 1, 2011, SINEMET TABLETS (CARBIDOPA-LEVODOPA) and SINEMET CR (CARBIDOPA-LEVODOPA) SUSTAINED-RELEASE TABLETS** will now be distributed by Merck.

Merck has filed an application with the FDA to change the manufacturing supply source of SINEMET and SINEMET CR from Merck to a new source; this process requires regulatory approval. New product will not be available until the new source is approved by the FDA. As a result, a temporary supply shortage could occur in early 2011 because orders placed with Merck after January 1, 2011, using the following Merck NDC #'s, will be backordered until the new product is available.

In the event of a product shortage, there are several generic carbidopa-levodopa alternatives currently available that can be dispensed.

We are committed to providing up-to-date information for our products, and we want you to be aware of the possible shortage to help you plan for any impact it may have in the care of your patients.

**SINEMET (CARBIDOPA-LEVODOPA) TABLETS**

BMS NDC #	Merck NDC #	Product Description
0056-0647-68	0006-3915-68	10 mg/100 mg tablet, bottle of 100
0056-0650-68	0006-3916-68	25 mg/100 mg tablet, bottle of 100
0056-0654-68	0006-3917-68	25 mg/250 mg tablet, bottle of 100

**SINEMET CR (CARBIDOPA-LEVODOPA) SUSTAINED-RELEASE TABLETS**

BMS NDC #	Merck NDC #	Product Description
0056-0601-68	0006-3918-68	25 mg/100 mg tablet, bottle of 100
0056-0521-68	0006-3919-68	50 mg/200 mg tablet, bottle of 100

Following FDA approval, we will provide an update to distributors and pharmacies on the new source of the product.

Effective January 1, 2011, returns for these products should be sent to Merck via Pharma Returns, regardless of whether the product was sourced from BMS or from Merck.

Pharma Returns  
100 Corporate Dr. Suite 2  
Montgomeryville, PA 18936

All questions should be directed to the Merck Order Management Center: 1-800-Merck-RX (1-800-637-2579).



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